

House Resolution No.

Whereas, the City of Kutaisi, Republic of Georgia, and the City of Columbia, Boone County, Missouri, United States of America, formally established Sister Cities in 1997; and

Whereas, these cities share common features, both being centers of education and health care, and common values inherent to democracy among their citizenry; and

Whereas, the families of Kutaisi continue to lack an affordable, accessible supply of the nutrient iodine, most commonly available through enriched salt, and as a result, Acting Mayor Beso Gulordava and the Georgian Medical Society have requested the support of Kutaisi's Sister City in addressing this major health concern; and

Whereas, a group of concerned Columbia citizens formed a coalition, Columbia Cares for Kutaisi, to help make a difference in the fight against thyroid disease in 2001, since which time three Columbia Cares for Kutaisi campaigns have reduced the prevalence of goiter in Kutaisi's children from fifty-four percent to twenty-eight percent; and

Whereas, the organization A Call to Serve-Missouri (ACTS) coordinates Sister City activities, exchanges and humanitarian aid between Columbia and Kutaisi; and

Whereas, many local organizations, including service clubs, schools, media outlets and those within Columbia's religious and business communities, have joined in this worthwhile community effort; and

Whereas, Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman has proclaimed the month of April 2005 to be Columbia Cares for Kutaisi Month: Salt Solution 2005:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, join unanimously to honor Kutaisi and Mayor Hindman's efforts in urging Columbia citizens to participate in the efforts to promote long-term sufficiency in the supply of iodized salt to Kutaisi school children and families; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Columbia Cares for Kutaisi.

Offered by _____
Representative Jeff Harris, No. 23

Representative Judy Baker, No. 25

Representative Wes Shoemyer, No. 9

Representative Steve Hobbs, No. 21

Representative Ed Robb, No. 24

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. ____, adopted ____, 2005.

Rod Jetton, Speaker